GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2001
ASSISTANCE TO THE AGED PERSONS
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started effecting a cut in the monetary assistance being provided to the aged persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the funds allocated for the said assistance to the aged persons during each of the last three years;

(c) the total amount spent on them during the above period;

(d) whether the number of the aged persons are increasing annually;

(e) if so, the extent of increase in their number during 2001-2002 as compared to the last year; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of the aged persons?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 86 FOR ANSWER C 23.11.2001 REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO THE AGED PERSONS BY SHRI TUFANI SAROJ

(a) & (b) : Monetary assistance at Rs. 75 per month to old and destitute persons above 65 years of age is being provided by the Ministry of Rural Development under the National Old Age Pension Scheme(NOAPS). This is in addition to the Old Age pensions being disbursed by the respective State Governments/Union Territories.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides non Monetary assistance in the form of establishment and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-Institutional Service Centres set up by the Non Governmental Organisations and /or Panchayati Raj institutions through the planned and non planned schemes respectively.

(c) : The total amount spent on the above mentioned two schemes by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Plan and Non-Plan) during the last three years namely 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is as under:-

(Rs.in lakhs)

Scheme	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons for maintenance of old age homes and for Construction of old age homes/multi service centers for older persons	930.13	1327.36	1316.81+

+ There was a marginal reduction in the budget due to an overall, across the board, cut in non-plan budget.

The reduction was therefore not deliberate.

(d) &(e):- The Census is held decennially. The figures for the present number of persons aged 60 years and above as per the Census of India held in 2001 are awaited. However, the total population of persons aged 60 years and above as per decennial Census held in 1991 and as projected by the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission in 1996 are given as under, which indicate the trend:-

No.of persons aged 60 years and above as per the Census of India 1991	No.of persons aged 60 years and above as projected by the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission in 1996
5,66,81,640 i.e.5.67 crores	70,571,000 i.e. 7.06 crores

(f) In addition, the following welfare steps are also being taken by the Government for the older persons :-

(i) The Government has recently approved a scheme called `ANNAPURNA Scheme` under which 10 Kgs of food grains would be provided every month to such destitute elderly, who are not in receipt of old age pension scheme of Ministry of Rural Development.

(ii) On the request of this Ministry, Chief Justice of India advised ChiefJustices of all High Courts in the Country to ensure expeditious disposal of Court Cases of Older Persons.

(iii) Union Health Ministry has issuedinstructions to all the State Governments / UTAdministrations for provision of separate queues for older persons in hospitals at all stages.

(iv) At the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry, three Telephone helplines for older persons have been working in Delhi, Ahmedabad & Bhuj through an NGO called Agewell Foundation.

(v) The Department of Telecommunications has already announced the Government decision to give telephone connections to senior citizens aged 65 years and above on priority.

(vi) Aadhar has been set up as a functional Secretariat of National Councilfor Older Persons (NCOP).The major activities of Aadhar include receiving representations, complaints and grievances of older persons and taking follow up action.